



MEDIA RELEASE
For Immediate Release
September 23, 2003

Contact: Thomas P. Colantuono
United States Attorney
Terry L. Ollila
Assistant U.S. Attorney
(603) 225-1552

FORMER POLICE OFFICER PLEADS GUILTY TO ARMED ROBBERY AND WEAPONS CHARGES

Re: United States v. Gary SAHLIN

CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE: United States Attorney Tom Colantuono, Manchester Police Chief John Jaskolka and FBI Resident Agent in Charge John Fallon announced that GARY SAHLIN, age 26, of Pompano Beach, Florida, pleaded guilty on September 22, 2003 to a two-count Information involving the August 6, 2003, armed robbery of Fleet Bank, 2626 Brown Avenue, Manchester, New Hampshire. Count One of the United States' Information charged SAHLIN with the armed bank robbery of Fleet Bank, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 2113(a) and (d), and Count Two charged SAHLIN with the use of a Colt M16A1, 5.56 caliber semi-automatic assault weapon during the armed robbery, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 924(c).

The terms of the plea agreement, filed in U.S. District Court, call for SAHLIN to receive a twenty-five year sentence based upon his pleas to Counts One and Two.

During SAHLIN'S plea hearing, the United States Attorney's Office proffered evidence establishing that SAHLIN, a former Manchester, New Hampshire Police Officer, and his girlfriend, Patricia Yoshikawa, traveled from their residence in Pompano Beach, Florida, to Manchester, New Hampshire, on August 2, 2003. While in New Hampshire, SAHLIN and Yoshikawa traveled to SAHLIN's parents' residence in Raymond, New Hampshire, and obtained the ignition key to a Manchester, New Hampshire Police Department patrol vehicle, which SAHLIN kept after resigning from the police force. SAHLIN and Yoshikawa also traveled to a Target Store in Nashua, New Hampshire, during the afternoon of August 5, 2003, and purchased a mask and duffle bag for the robbery.

During the late evening hours of August 5, 2003, SAHLIN and Yoshikawa traveled from Merrimack, New Hampshire, to the Manchester, New Hampshire Police Department. After defeating a number of security devices from within a patrol vehicle, SAHLIN stole the vehicle and hid it in a secluded area near Goffs Falls Road, Manchester, New Hampshire. SAHLIN and Yoshikawa returned to the vehicle the morning of August 6, 2003, and SAHLIN took the vehicle

and the M16A1 semiautomatic assault weapon, located in the trunk, to the area of Fleet Bank, 2626 Brown Avenue, Manchester, New Hampshire. SAHLIN, wearing sunglasses, gloves, and a mask, and carrying the M16A1 assault weapon, then entered the Fleet Bank, announced the robbery and obtained \$23,956.00 in United States currency.

Following the robbery, SAHLIN returned the patrol vehicle to an area near the Manchester, New Hampshire Police Department and was picked up by Yoshikawa. The two traveled back to the Radisson Motel and counted the proceeds from the robbery. They then packaged and shipped the currency to their Pompano Beach residence. Shortly after shipping the currency, SAHLIN and Yoshikawa obtained airline tickets from Southwest Airlines and returned to Florida. The following day, August 7, 2003, law enforcement executed a search warrant at their residence and recovered most of the bank robbery proceeds (approximately \$20,500), which were found secreted in a bathroom cabinet.

The case was investigated by the Bedford, New Hampshire, and Miami, Florida, Offices of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Manchester, New Hampshire Police Department, the United States Postal Service, and the Broward County, Florida, Sheriff's Department. The prosecution is being handled by Assistant United States Attorney Terry Ollila.